

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MADRID 000617

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/15/2015

TAGS: [PREL](#) [KPAL](#) [IR](#) [UP](#) [MD](#) [SU](#) [SR](#) [BK](#) [CGEN](#)

SUBJECT: SPAIN'S VIEWS IN ADVANCE OF FEBRUARY 21 GAERC

REF: A. STATE 25111

[1](#)B. MADRID 490

Classified By: Political Officer Robert Riley for Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) SUMMARY. We discussed Transatlantic Relations, the Middle East Peace Process, Iraq, the Western Balkans, Ukraine/Moldova, Sudan, the Great Lakes, and Iran with Enrique Mora Benavente, MFA Head of EU Planning on February [1](#)15. Mora Benavente said that the February 21 GAERC meeting would serve to set the agenda for February 22 meetings with President Bush and Secretary of State Rice. The EU welcomes the results at the recent Sharm El Sheikh summit regarding the Middle East Peace Process. Spain's proposed training course for Iraqi lawyers, policemen, and prison officials will be formally endorsed at the GAERC meeting. The GAERC meeting will focus on the Kosovo issue due to the presence of the UN Secretary General Special Representative for Kosovo. The EU will sign Action Plans with Ukraine and Moldova. The EU approves of peace efforts in Sudan, but prefers to use the International Criminal Court to resolve problems. There will be no discussion of Iran at the GAERC, and the EU's February 22 discussion with Secretary Rice on Iran will be brief because, according to Benavente, she has heard the same message numerous times. END SUMMARY

#### TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS

[1](#)2. (C) Mora Benavente said that the February 21 GAERC meetings would serve to prepare the agenda for the February 22 EU meetings with President Bush and Secretary Rice. Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos will be one of the keynote speakers at the February 22 meetings with Secretary Rice; he will discuss the Middle East Peace Process. The agenda for the February 22 meetings will include the Middle East Peace Process, Iraq, Iran, the Western Balkans, and possibly Ukraine.

#### MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

[1](#)3. (C) The EU welcomes the results of the Sharm El Sheikh summit. Spain looks forward to the London meetings on Palestinian reform during the first of March. Mora Benavente said that there would probably be discussion of the recent assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. He noted that in his opinion Hariri had done more than any other Lebanese citizen to improve the lives of ordinary Lebanese since the end of the Lebanese civil war.

#### IRAQ

[1](#)4. (C) Spain will provide a training course for Iraqi lawyers, policemen, and prison officials that will formally be endorsed at the GAERC meeting. The EU will be involved in thirteen training courses. Spain's training course will be held in Spain. Spain gave USD 20 million for Iraqi election efforts under the UN framework and is currently looking for ways to spend close to USD 140 million of the USD 300 million pledged during the Madrid Iraqi Donor Conference. (NOTE: Further details of Spanish intentions for spending in Iraq can be found in Ref B.) The GAERC meeting will call on the Sunnis to further integrate in Iraq's political process. The Spanish are encouraging the EU to upgrade its presence in Iraq to a mission. A permanent presence of the EU will be needed in order to select recipients for the numerous training courses. Spain is seriously considering upgrading its presence in Iraq by changing its current Charge d'Affaires to an Ambassador and adding additional staff; Spain's future staffing in Iraq will be dependent on the security situation and the political process.

#### WESTERN BALKANS

[1](#)5. (C) UN Secretary General Special Representative for Kosovo Soren Jessen-Petersen will address the GAERC meeting. Discussions of the Western Balkans will focus on the situation in Kosovo. The EU agrees with U.S. goals on priorities and standards in Kosovo. Croatian accession to the EU may also be discussed. The EU encourages Croatia to deliver Gotovina to the Hague prior to starting EU accession talks. Croatian accession talks are scheduled to begin March 17, and Mora Benavente told Poloff that the decision to begin or cancel accession talks on March 17 is now up to the EU Presidency, currently run by Luxembourg. Spain's view is

that Croatia is so eager to start EU accession talks that they will do anything not to upset accession talks, including delivering Gotovina quickly.

#### UKRAINE / MOLDOVA

16. (C) The EU will sign Action Plans for Ukraine and Moldova immediately following the GAERC meeting at Cooperation Councils held individually with both countries.

#### SUDAN

17. (C) Spain welcomed the recent peace agreements signed between warring factions in Sudan, and favored EU efforts to give assistance to the Sudanese as a peace dividend. The EU is still very concerned about the situation in Darfur and is waiting for UNSC action regarding sanctions. If sanctions are approved by the UNSC, the EU will support the sanctions. If sanctions are not approved, the EU will look at other measures that can be taken. Spain fully supports the International Criminal Court and believes this is the proper forum for accountability for the atrocities in Darfur.

#### GREAT LAKES

18. (C) The EU welcomes U.S. initiatives in the Great Lakes. EU Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Aldo Ajello reported that there were good discussions at the Tripartite Joint Commission talks in Washington in February.

#### IRAN

19. (C) Poloff asked Mora Benavente if the GAERC meeting would take up Iran, since the EU was putting Iran on the agenda for talks with both President Bush and Secretary Rice. He said that Iran would not be discussed at the GAERC meeting and that discussion with Secretary Rice concerning Iran would be brief on February 22 since the EU had already "informed Rice several times" that the EU prefers a negotiated settlement in Iran. Mora Benavente said that Iran is basically looking for three things: (1) support for its civilian use of nuclear power, (2) increased economic cooperation, and (3) security guarantees. He said that the EU could deliver on the first two of Iran's goals but that only the U.S. could give Iran security guarantees. He told Poloff that high-ranking members of the Spanish MFA and the Spanish Ambassador in Tehran believe that the U.S. is waiting for the results of the Iranian presidential elections in June to see if the U.S. can work with the new team before the U.S. "takes any actions" in Iran.

#### MANZANARES